

CLAIMS

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1. An enhanced pointing device comprising:
a pointing device operable to be communicatively coupled to a computer device, wherein said pointing device includes:
at least one control activator, wherein manipulation of said at least one control activator results in a generation and transmission of at least one control signal to at least one electronic device, wherein said at least one control signal influences the operation of said at least one electronic device, and wherein the influence on operation does not include enabling a user to interact with a graphical user interface being provided at least in part via said computer device, if said computer device is included in said at least one electronic device.
 2. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein manipulation of each of said at least one control activator influences the operation of a different device of said at least one electronic device.
 3. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein manipulation of a plurality of said at least one control activator influences the operation of a particular device of said at least one electronic device, and wherein manipulation of each control activator of said plurality influences a different operational aspect of said particular device.
 4. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein the influence on operation includes turning at least one of said at least one electronic device on or off.
 5. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said at least one control activator is operable to influence the operation of at least one of said at least one electronic device in more than one manner.
 6. The enhanced pointing device of claim 5 wherein said at least one of said at least one control activator is operable to turn said at least one of said at least one electronic device on or off, as well as to adjust the volume of audio provided by said at least one of said at least one electronic device.

7. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein said pointing device is in part a mouse.

8. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein said at least one electronic device includes said computer device.

9. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein said at least one electronic device includes a telephone, and wherein the influence of operation includes answering said telephone.

10. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein said at least one electronic device includes a copy machine.

11. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein said at least one electronic device includes a printer.

12. The enhanced pointing device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said at least one control activator is situated at a location on said pointing device whereby the chance of accidental manipulation of said at least one of said at least one control activator is reduced.

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13. A method for influencing the operation of at least one electronic device, said method comprising:

generating at least one control signal in response to manipulation of at least one control activator of a pointing device that is operable to be communicatively coupled to a computer device; and

transmitting said at least one control signal to said at least one electronic device;

wherein said at least one control signal influences the operation of said at least one electronic device, and wherein the influence on operation does not include enabling a user to interact with a graphical user interface being provided at least in part via said computer device, if said computer device is included in said at least one electronic device.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said method further includes converting said at least one control signal into a format compatible with at least one of said at least one electronic device.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the influence on operation includes turning at least one of said at least one electronic device on or off



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16. An enhanced computer peripheral input device comprising:
an input device that is operable to be communicatively coupled to a computer device, said input device enabling a user to interact with an application graphically interfacing with a user, at least in part, via said computer device, said input device including:

at least one control activator, wherein manipulation of said at least one control activator results in the generation and transmission of at least one control signal to at least one electronic device, wherein said at least one control signal influences the operation of said at least one electronic device, wherein the influence on operation includes at least one of said at least one electronic device being turned on or off, and wherein the influence on operation does not include interacting with said application.

17. The device of claim 17 wherein at least one of said at least one electronic device is said computer device.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein said input device is in part a pointing device.

19. The device of claim 17 wherein said input device is in part a keyboard.

20. The device of claim 17 wherein at least one of said at least one control activator is operable to influence the operation of at least one of said at least one electronic device in more than one manner.

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